

REMARKS

In the Claims

Claims 1-39 were previously canceled without prejudice.

Claim 40-53 are currently canceled without prejudice.

Claims 54-59 were previously canceled without prejudice.

Claims 60-85 are canceled without prejudice.

Claims 86-124 are added.

Accordingly, claims 86-124 are pending.

Additional Claim Fees

Payment of \$611 is included for the 19 additional claims and the 10 additional independent claims under the small entity fee schedule.

Claim Listing under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c):

Claims 86-124, now pending, are submitted below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c).

Applicant respectfully requests examination and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-39 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 40-53 are cancelled without prejudice in order to prosecute more desirable claims 86-124. Claims 54-59 were previously cancelled without prejudice in order to facilitate allowance and issuance of claims 60-85. Claims 60-85 are cancelled without prejudice in order to prosecute more desirable claims 86-124.

Accordingly, claims 86-124 are pending.

1           **Claim for Priority**

2           The present application is a national stage application filed under 35 USC §  
3           371. Applicant requests acknowledgment that the present application has met the  
4           requirements of 35 USC § 371, and accordingly, this application claims the benefit  
5           of the international filing date of PCT application PCT/US98/20376, filed on  
6           10/29/1998.

7           ~~**Request For Notice of Allowance**~~

8           Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for pending claims 86-124.

9           New claims 86-88 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
10           limited to “an alternate string anchoring point for each string.”

11           New claims 89-92 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
12           limited to “a first portion connected to the base and located in the rearward end  
13           forming an alternate string anchoring point closer to the lower portion than the  
14           second critical point.”

15           New claim 93 is allowable from novelty that includes, but is not limited to  
16           “a second end having an alternate string anchoring point.”

17           New claims 94-99 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
18           limited to “a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular  
19           apparatus comprising a thumbwheel operable to position a spring holder.”

20           New claim 100 is allowable from novelty that includes, but is not limited to  
21           “an additional apparatus coupled to the fulcrum tremolo and the body, the  
22           additional apparatus comprising a thumbwheel to the adjust position of fulcrum  
23           tremolo about the fulcrum tremolo.”

1           New claims 101-103 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
2 limited to “a single piece of stamped material comprising a base plate being  
3 approximately planar comprising at least one tier for displacing the at least one  
4 second critical point from the base plate.”

5           New claims 104-109 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
6 limited to a “rearward portion forms a string anchoring point closer to the base  
7 than the second critical point; and wherein the string anchoring point is located a  
8 critical distance from the second critical point operable to render a string as  
9 approximately inextensible between the anchoring point and the second critical  
10 point.”

11          New claims 110-111 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
12 limited to a “rearward portion forms an alternate string anchoring point closer to  
13 the base than the second critical point; and wherein the alternate string anchoring  
14 point is located a critical distance from the second critical point so that a string is  
15 rendered essentially inextensible between the alternate string anchoring point and  
16 the second critical point.”

17          New claims 112-124 are allowable from novelty that includes, but is not  
18 limited to a “bend in the unitary component at an opposite end of the forward edge  
19 of the base plate a transverse portion comprising at least one spring socket to receive an  
20 end of at least one biasing element.”

21          Thus, claims 86-124 are allowable. Accordingly, Applicant requests a Notice  
22 of Allowance for pending claims 86-124.

1           **Conclusion**

2  
3       All pending claims 86-124 are in condition for allowance. Applicant  
4       respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject  
5       application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the  
6       Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned applicant before issuing a  
7       subsequent Action.

8  
9           Respectfully Submitted,

10  
11          Dated: Dec. 3, 2004

12          By:



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15  
16  
17          Michael Smith  
18          Reg. #45,368

19           **Certificate of Transmission**

20  
21          I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the  
22          United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306 on Dec. 3,  
23          2004.

24  
25          Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

26          \_\_\_\_\_Michael G. Smith\_\_\_\_\_

27  
28          Signature: Michael G. Smith\_\_\_\_\_